THE CRY OF NEVVGATE,

With the other *Priſons*, in and about

LONDON:

In which diſmal Holes, and Cels, are imured about three hundred Perſons, of the Innocent People of God, called *Quakers*, for no other Cauſe, but for their unſpotted Teſtimonies in God, held in clear Conſciences.

To you *Magiſtrates*, *Prieſts*, and *People* of this City of *London*, and elſewhere, whom theſe may concern, are theſe Words uttered.

By *R. C.*

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The Cry *of* Newgate, *with the other* Priſons, *in and about* LONDON, *&c.*

O Ye *Magiſtrates*, when will ye deſiſt from your Tragical actions? Conſider, Conſider, great, grievous and cruel, is the burthen that is born by us from that inſatiate bloody perſecuting ſpirit which this day hath Dominion in you; I ſay, and Challenge in the Name and fear of God, what is it we have done, that you ſhould execute your implacable furies on us, by haling, dragging, and carrying us out of our peaceable Meetings, as you do without any Remorſe, Mercy, or Compaſſion ſhewn unto any, young or old Age, or Sex, and by that Abominable practice, of *Club Law*, the which doth violate the *Lawes Civil*, that are made and provided for *Engliſh-men*, who are peaceable and Free-born of the Nation, and are made for the preſervation of the *good Proteſtant People* Inhabiting therein, and not for their ruine and Deſtruction, as is this day made manifeſt in the face of the World, becauſe of the difference of perſwaſion in *Conſcience*, about *Religion*, and for no other cauſe?

Oh! why do you prevaricate with the *Light* of *God* in your *Conſciences*, which lets you ſee the abomination of this thing? known be it to you, we the People of the moſt high God, called *Quakers*, have moſt unjuſtly received from your hands, ſuch height of Cruelty and Barbaroſity as hath not been meaſured to any People in this Nation many Generations; And all this for our unſpotted Teſtimony in the Truth of the moſt High

God, which we dearly own, and our lives are given up for, though ſlighted, and made a mock of by the *Sons* of *Idolatry*; I ſay, we loath your *Club Law*, for in Queen *Maryes* dayes, in that *Perſecution* which was very bloody indeed, with which the Earth is ſtill beſmeared, and the loathſom peſtiferous ſtench thereof is exceeding unſavoury in the minds of the good Proteſtant People of this Nation; I ſay, then there was *Legal Proceſs*, (though by wicked Lawes) and not the practice of *Club Law*, as now, ſo much loathed and deteſted by the good People of *England*, and formerly by your ſelves, as Biſhop *Gauden* in a book againſt the *Quakers* mentioneth, and complains of that Flagellant Method practiced by preceding Powers, their forcing contrary to Conſcience, to be exceeding wicked and cruel; And if you complained of it then, may not we aſwel complain of it now? Was it *Wicked*, *Cruel* and *Evil* in thoſe, and in them times, and is it *Righteous*, *Good* and *Merciful* in you now? Is God who gave Judgement in that Caſe then, changed with the times, that that which was *Evil* then is now become good? And that which was *Wicked* then, is now become *Righteous*? God *Eternal* forbid I ſhould ſay it; and whoſoever doth, Blaſphemes. And know this O ye *Magiſtrates*, we do but complain of now, and cry out againſt, what your very ſelves did then, and found it burthenſom unto you; And now the burthen is off from your ſhoulder, and are at eaſe, you lay it upon us; (upon us I ſay) which were no burthen to you in that day, yea and you make your Fingers as heavy as their Loyns: even God Eternal Judge between you and us in this caſe, and make ſpeedy deciſion in this Controverſie, if it be thy holy Will Eternal Father, that it may appear to the whole World how in Innocency we ſtand. Oh!

Oh! Consider, Consider, it is a small thing for *Liberty* of *Conscience* to be given in *matters* of *Religion*; for certainly so doing, diminisheth nothing of his that allowes it; And it is the greatest thing that is to be hindred of it, when it as certainly addeth nothing to him that restrains it: Conscience, is properly and peculiarly Gods alone to exercise, and not Mans, or Mens; Therefore think not the understandings that God hath given unto us, and enlightened them with a manifestation of himself, we ever can, will or shall give away, or part with to Man or Men; for so came in that damnable Apostacy at first, and the first rise of implicite Faith, (mark well these words) it is certainly so; for know you this, where the Conscience is, or hath been made shipwrack of by bowing to the Lusts of Men, and the understandings of Men given up thereby, then this followeth, their *Eyes* being *out*, they are turned into the Mills to grind, and being become so (*viz.*) wilfully blind, *Vassalage* is as well entertained by them, as *Liberty*: have we deserved these things at your hands? or do we deserve them? And is this a Retaliation Equivolent to our Tribute, and Taxes, we pay? (they which we have hitherto paid) expecting for which we should enjoy a peaceable life, in *all godlinesse*; But behold nothing but *Cells*, *Vaults*, and *Nasty holes* in *Prisons* amongst *Fellons*, and *Murderers*, is returned unto us for this; Certainly this is most injurious and unreasonable, to exact Tribute and Taxes on us, and not to suffer us to labonr in our Callings for it; If we must bring in our full tale of Brick, let us have our Liberty to gather straw, though not allowed, and shut us not up in the places precited,

where

where neither ſtraw, nor any thing elſe is to be had.

Aſſuredly, aſſuredly, you muſt needs ſee, and cannot be ignorant of theſe things, for experience muſt needs have taught you ſomething; is it ſo long ſince your Affliction hath paſſed over your heads, that ſuch things are by you forgot? though you forget them, yet we cannot; and though your hands are ſtretched forth againſt us in cruelty, yet God who knoweth our Innocency, hath numbered the dayes of our Affliction, and ſo haſteneth the work of our ſore travail in our Generation; and though the Lord ſhould give you power to hunt us to death, and if you and us ſhould not part but at our habitations of ſilence, as ſeveral of our dear Friends have done already by your perſecutiug hands; yet I ſay, *God's Eternal Peace* is our *Portion*, in which we lay down our heads; and though you pleaſe your ſelves in theſe things, and paliate your Luſts upon our Affliction, yet know alſo, God hath numbred the dayes of your Cruelty towards us, and you poſt to your ends, where you will lay down your heads in God's wrath; for conſider yeſterday comes no more.

Theſe *Tragedies* are not much unlike ſome of thoſe Chriſtian Hunters, mentioned in the ten Perſecutions, as *Nero*, *Domitian*, *Maximinus*, and *Dioclefian*, all which took pleaſure to hunt the Chriſtians that would not ſacrifice to their *Heatheniſh Gods*; and is it leſs now, or unlike them? do not ſome of you ſport your ſelves in the ſame, and take pleaſure therein, as to hunt the good proteſtant Chriſtians out of their peaceable meetings, with your armed men, and drive them by hundreds in flocks to your Priſons? and is it not becauſe we cannot

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ceaſe to meet together, to worſhip the living God in the Spirit of Truth, as he hath manifeſted? and if it lie upon any from the Lord, to deny to be driven by your armed men, knowing right well thoſe Proceedings are unjuſt, and abominable to peaceable Engliſh men, then you immediately fall upon them with Sword and Muſket, and ſhed blood as freely as though you were ordered only to murder: Now whoſoever this doth, or on whom it lieth to be done, it is for a Teſtimony againſt your wicked illegal Proceedings, by *Club Law*, which our very Souls loath; for we never refuſed to go with a civil Officer, provided he came by *Warrant*, and he orderly ſerving his *Warrant* on thoſe men whoſe names were therein expreſſed: but truly I ſay, though this be *Englands Law*, I never ſee it yet legally executed upon us: Therefore a good reaſon have we to cry out againſt your *Club Law*, we being known to be peaceable men, and ſuch as do wholly follow and enſue the ſame.

And further, it is not unknown to you what Blood hath been lately ſhed in our *Meeting* within *Alderſgate*, and eſpecially on the body of that murdered martyred Saint, *John Trowell*, whoſe Blood the Earth hath drunk up, and thereout cryeth aloud for *Juſtice*; with others dead ſince, both of their hurts received there, and of their cruel Impriſonment in *Newgate*, to the number of ten Perſons, whoſe blood is yet to be accounted for. Therefore the thing is not a paſtime or ſport as you may make it, for the eye of the juſt God beholds your Doings, and will not at all acquit you in theſe Actions; for *Pretious in the Eye of the Lord, are the Death of his martyred Saints*; And I do

tell

tell you again, *Englands Laws* are made to preſerve and protect the good Proteſtant People of the ſame, in all their juſt Rights, and not to deſtroy them. Think ye it is not taken notice of by many, how at this day the *Papiſts* (though the *Laws* are againſt them) have liberty to Meet, and are not broke up, neither deſturbed, but rather indulged; (I ſpeak not this becauſe I would have them, or any denied their Liberty in matter of Conſcience) What meaneth theſe things? well, the Intentions of all hearts are bare and naked before our God: And verily I ſay unto you, O ye *Magiſtrates*, theſe Actions are altogether *Illegal*, *Cruel*, *Abominable*, *Unnatural* and *Heterogenial* towards us, who fear the living God that created all things both in heaven and in earth: Yet nevertheleſs, this I ſay in God's holy dread and fear, prove us yet more, and try us even to the extremity that is in your hearts, yet our unſpotted Innocency muſt, will, and ſhall clear us unto God's juſt Witneſs that is in your Conſciences; and this is God's Word unto you all.

And Oh ye *Prieſts!* that are the fomenters of theſe things precited, by your wicked envious Railings, which whets on the *Magiſtrate* to accompliſh your intended Purpoſes; I ſay in God's fear, your Judgement neither ſleepeth nor ſlumbereth, but is near to be accompliſhed, for Gods Eternal decree haſtens concerning you: what ſhall I ſay? you have been tried, and into the Furnace you have been caſt, where you might have learned true Wiſdom, but alas, alas you are fouud to come forth with a thicker and fouler cruſt tenfold, then when you went in; and though your tree be grown, and the leaves thereof be ſeemingly

ingly green, yet know you this from the Lord, if you know it not, your tree is ſeen to be rotten at the root, for true wiſdom hath ſearched it out, and a hewer from the holy One ſtands ready with an Ax in his hand, to give it that fatal blow decreed from the Lord; and great, yea wonderful great will be the fall thereof: if your *Worſhip* were the *Worſhip* of the true God, why did you not manifeſt it to the World, in the day of your Tryal ſome years ſince, had you ſealed your Teſtimonies therein, and firmly ſtood your ground, then it would have confirmed your Doctrine; for *in Seaſon*, and *out of Seaſon*, the *Apoſtles* of Jeſus both *Taught* and *Preached*, and they were true *Miniſters* of the Church of God; but yours have been, and are found not to be ſo; for it was not ſeaſonable for you in that day to hold forth the Teſtimonies, becauſe the Laws were not in being which did uphold you, and on which you leaned, and alſo on which you lean at this day.

Now I ſay and do aver, ſhould the *Magiſtrate ſecular*, and the *Power Military*, each one ſtand in his proper ſtation, and leave you to ſtand alone in yours; I tell you, you would appear to be (even as you are) a *dead Image* without Life, which gives no true motion; now mark us well, the deſpiſed in your Eye, were we ſo, ſuffered we not then as well as you, and from the ſame Power, and are not we the ſame in truths Teſtimony now as then? and do you cauſe us to be Perſecuted and cruelly entreated, becauſe we will not do as you have done, that is, change as you have changed? no, no, far be it from us, God Eternall hath begotten us, in his Life by his holy Seed, which ne-

ver did, will, or ſhall change; for whoever changeth from it, yet it ſtill remains unchangeable in Eternity; Therefore ceaſe, ceaſe ye *Clods* of *Earth*, ye *morſels* of *Envy*, ye *things* of *Naught*, ye *attomes* of *Vanity*, ye *pitchers* filled with *Enmity* againſt the chaſte Seed of God, what are ye in compariſon of that which ye ſtrive with and perſecute? for it is God in his Saints ye fight withall and againſt: But know aſſuredly, God hath determined deliverance, and hath ſworn it, and we faithfully believe it; therefore we are neither ſolicitous or anxious concerning your threats, or cruel actions, that you do, or may be permitted to do unto us, for we are preſerved even by that Power, that gives you power to do what you do; and therefore we are not careful I ſay, for we are better acquainted with that Power than your ſelves are, for our lives and preſervation therein ſtands, and in the ſence thereof do we reſide and inhabite; immortal praiſes be given in the immortal Seed of all his, from the pure breathings of his holy Spirit for ever, and for evermore: But woe, woe unto the *Oppoſers*, *Perſecutors*, and *Fighters* againſt this *ſuffering Seed* of God, and the Lamb-like Spirit, which is now manifeſt, and is moſt ſorely burthened and laden with the unheard of Cruelties, and Abomination of this Generation of every ſort; the Wine-preſs of God's implacable, inexorable wrath is even near to be trod, whereout will flow rivers of Blood, for the diſpoſition of the abominations of this generation, calls for it, and from which there is no eſcape: This is God's Truth to all you *Hirling perſecuting Prieſts*, which will ſtand on your head for ever.

And to all you People of this City of *London*, who ever

ever you be that ſport your ſelves in theſe execrable and damnable Practices, of hunting the true Chriſtians out of their peaceable *Meetings*, and are delighted to ſee us driven like ſilly ſheep up and down the ſtreets, and thruſt into noyſome and diſmal *Cels* by hundreds at once; I ſay long hath the Lord born with you, but you have almoſt ſinned out your day, and your pleaſures are even at an end; *Vanity* after *Vanity*, *Vanity* after *Vanity* have ye with greedineſs purchaſed, and for no other purpoſe, than to ſerve your wicked hearts luſt, whereby God Eternal hath been, and is moſt highly diſhonoured; you have a pretended Reformation, but rather a Deformation, as witneſs your *Bull-baitings*, *Bear-baitings*, your vitious Interludes and *Stage-playes*, with all manner of obſcenities; well, the reins is given you and a full ſwinge you had for ſome years paſt in theſe things, yet little do you regard or ſee the Judgements that attend you, but as though by adding *Sin* to *Sin*, is the very way to become *ſanctified*, and ſo he that can *Sin moſt*, is the *beſt Saint* in your account.

Oh! my Soul, my Soul is diſſolved into ſorrow and ſufferings for theſe things, and to ſee how things run *retrograde*, how the moſt *obſcene*, *ſcurrilous*, *black-mouthed Curſer* and *Swearer*, with all his vain unclean talk, is now counted good *Communicants*, and them that are otherwiſe, are branded and marked out for ruin and deſtruction; but know you this, that live without God in the World, and are not ſatisfied, neither will or can be, till you have full gorged your ſelves in all the curſed Works of Vanity, in which you have ſollaced your hearts; I ſay unto you, a Fire

is

is kindled which inwardly burneth fiercely, out of which will issue the Vials of God's *Implacable Vengeance*, and is quickly to be poured out upon the Earth, to consume all the Plants of God's curse; bundles, bundles, for this Fire which is never to be extinguished, until the Earth be cleared from all those poysonous pestiferous Pollutions, with which it is over-pread and covered.

This is God's Eternal Truth to you (ye men of *Sodom*) and he that can *Read*, let him *Read*.

R. C.

FINIS.